

2-19-2009

# Observer

Central Washington University

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page 16



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page 9

# The Central Washington University Observer

www.cwu.edu/~observer

February 19, 2009 Vol. 82 Issue 15

FREE - take one

## Central remembers Rebecca Shaw CWU graduate, co-pilot in New York plane crash killed

by Gloria Staley-Malenic  
Staff reporter

Rebecca (Morris) Shaw knew she wanted to fly since her senior year of high school - it was her passion.

"I can't even imagine doing anything else for the rest of my life," Shaw wrote in her application for Central Washington University's aviation program in 2004. "As long as I'm flying I will be happy."

On Feb. 12, 2009, Shaw was living her dream as she boarded Continental Flight 3407 as First Officer. The flight, heading from Newark, NJ to Buffalo Niagara Airport, tragically never made its destination.

Around 10:15 p.m. the plane crashed into a house about six miles from the airport. It immediately burst into flames, killing a total of 50 people - 44 passengers, five crew members (one off duty) and one person inside the house.

"You never think it is someone you know when this kind of thing happens," said David Clark, who took classes with Shaw, and is now a lecturer in the Central Aviation Department.

Shaw's studies began at Big Bend Community College, and continued with her transfer to Central in 2004. Three years later, she graduated with a Bachelor of Science in flight technology and a minor in philosophy.



Photos courtesy of Meagan Patey

Above: Rebecca Shaw graduated from Central Washington University in 2004. Below: Rebecca Shaw and Brenda Murphy, Central's flight instructor at the time, at Ellensburg's Bower Field Airport.

She married Troy Shaw in the summer of 2007 and began working as a flight instructor in Mesa, Ariz. In Jan. 2008, at age 23, Shaw joined Colgan Air, a regional airline operating as Continental Connection and had already flown 2,244 hours with them.

Dr. Amy Hoover, Central aviation department chair and associate professor, described Shaw as bright, smiley, sharp, vivacious, exuberant and full

of life - the kind of student that is remembered.

"She would come into class bouncing off the walls," Hoover said. "In her 24 years of life she probably lived three lives because she did so much and was always getting involved in everything."

Central's aviation program has about 200 students, but there is a core class group of about 25 to 30 that start out together. According to Hoover,

the department is very close and connected.

"The neat thing about Rebecca was that even though she transferred in, she quickly became part of the group," Hoover said.

According to Hoover, Shaw was a good student and belonged to Alpha Eta Rho, Central's collegiate aviation fraternity.

"She was so excited about being on the path to be employed by an airline," Hoover said.

While a student at CWU, Shaw worked as an airplane dispatcher at Ellensburg's Bower Field Airport. Clark, who would fly there on the weekends, remembers the smile on Shaw's face when she would welcome him and other pilots back.

Students were struck by the news, even those who didn't know her. It hit close to home for those studying aviation.

In a recent telephone conversation, Shaw's sister told Hoover that their family thought the community's response was incredible, and that they are overwhelmed with all the people coming out of the woodwork, telling stories and sharing how Rebecca touched so many lives.

"The aviation department at Central would like to express their condolences and sympathy to Rebecca's family and friends, and to the families

of everyone involved in the crash," Hoover said. "They would also like current students and alumni to know that they can contact the department for support."

The aviation department is coordinating with CWU Student Health and Counseling to provide support to the students who may need it. A scholarship fund in Shaw's memory is also being planned.

Department of aviation graduates receive their licenses from the Federal Aviation Administration and are trained in several different areas. At Central, there is one whole class dedicated to a twin engine turbo-prop aircraft, the type of plane involved in the crash, because it is the most common plane graduates will fly. Even after being hired in a company, employees go through another one to two month training.

The cause of the crash is not yet confirmed, however the National Transportation Safety Board revealed that the crew had been discussing significant ice buildup on the windshield and leading edge of the wings.

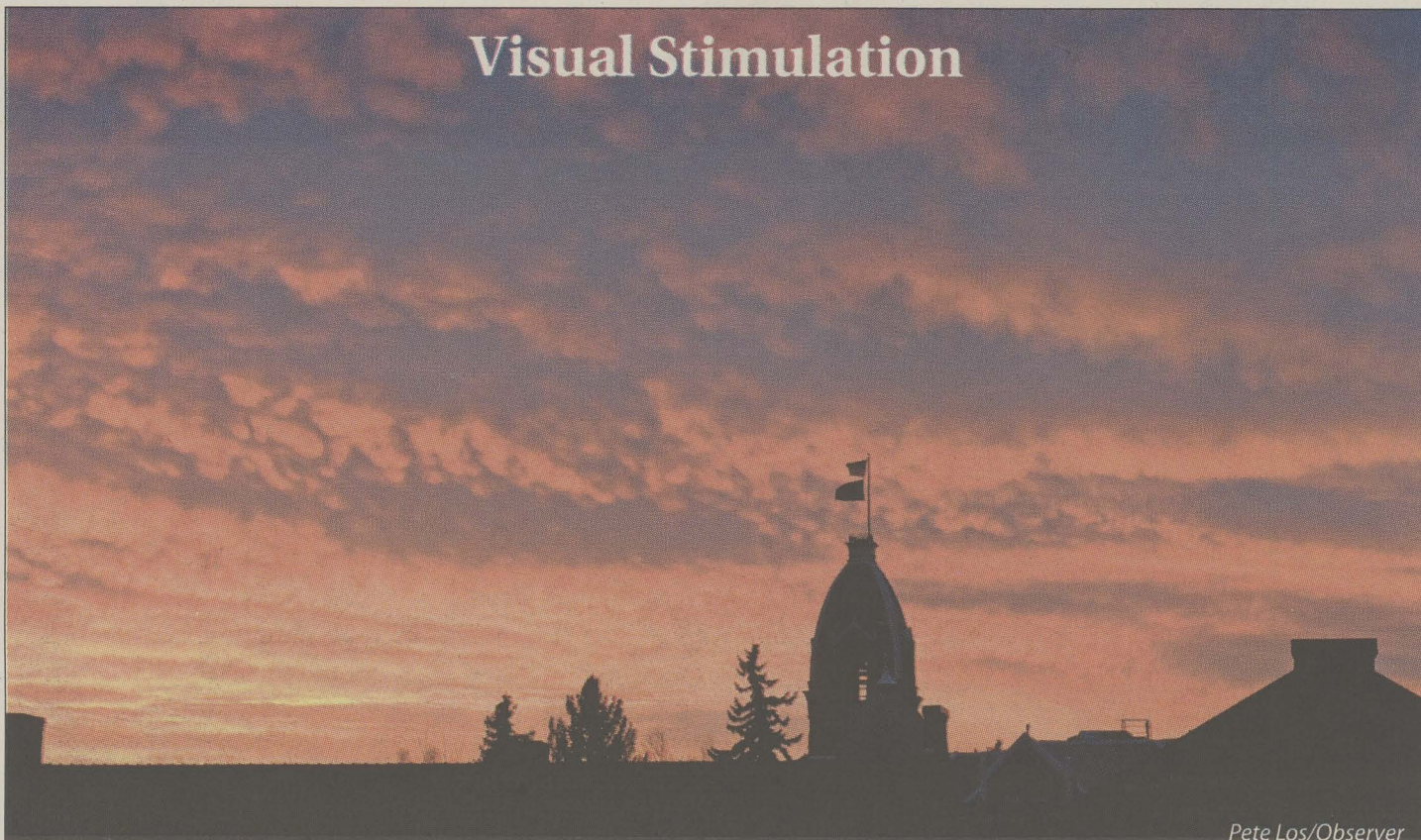
Shaw will be honored in Puyallup at the Department of Aviation Alumni private gathering at the Northwest Aviation Trade Show. Campus memorial services to honor Shaw are being planned and will be posted on the aviation department website.



Rebecca Lynne Shaw  
April 30, 1984 - February 12, 2009



## Visual Stimulation



Pete Los/Observer

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Friday, 5 p.m.

Entertainment, meetings, calendar  
 events.

Monday, 3 p.m. - Weekend sports  
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# Seventh annual Majors Fair clears the air for students

by Quinn Eddy  
Asst. News Editor  
and Erica Spalti  
Staff reporter

Central Washington University's seventh annual Majors Fair gave students the opportunity to meet with over 100 Central faculty members.

"I found it extremely helpful," said Tyler Racy, freshman undeclared. "I have zero idea what I wanted to do and it was nice being able to actually talk to professors outside of the classroom. They are more friendly and normal then. I think that this is a really good way to see what is out there; I never knew how many possible majors I could choose from. Students really need to take advantage of this."

As the country dives deeper into economic recession, the importance of selecting a strong major has never been more important.

"There is a common misconception that all students have to do is apply and then they are done, but that is not the case and that is why we are here to help," Jaqualyn Johnson, director of Career Services, said. "Students who have and collect information are more prone to stay in school and continue on their path."

Faculty members present at

## For more information

Career Services

[www.cwu.edu/~career](http://www.cwu.edu/~career)

Phone  
509-963-2404 or  
509-963-1921

the event came from every department. Majors representatives from Career Services, the Writing Center, the Math Center and Academic Advising were just a few of the departments flexing their academic muscles.

"As an undeclared major, this college fair is a great opportunity to narrow down my interests," Jonathan Polder, sophomore undeclared, said.

Co-sponsored by Career Services, University Housing and New Student Programs, the Majors Fair emphasized the impressive number of career pathways open to Central students.

"It's a really good idea to get connected early on," Johnson said.

If students are having trouble narrowing down a major, Career Services offers counseling that helps in the selection of a career, based on personal



Tetsu Takiguchi/Observer

Freshman Nicole Atkinson gets information at the Health, Human, Performance, and Nutrition major booths.

values, interests and skills.

"Using your strengths is incredibly important," Johnson said.

According to Dr. Mike Jackson, physics professor, physics department internships include research opportunities with the National Science Foundation and NASA.

"I had a student who went to work at Johnson Space center for a summer internship,"

Jackson said. "Get involved as early as possible."

According to Jackson, a lot of people are interested [in physics] so he's been helping people with what they can expect in the physics major.

"A basic education in physics opens the doors for careers in areas such as patent law, engineering and graduate studies," Jackson said.

Career Services welcomes

both students and alumni. In addition to career counseling, the Career Center offers mock interviews, career assessments, and will assist in the building of a good resume and cover letter.

With these tools at hand, Career Services will also help in actual job searches. The Career Services job and internship search engine has links to over 245 potential employers.

## LLC/THEME COMMUNITIES:

**Wednesday, February 4**

**8 a.m. – 5 p.m.**

Same Hall/Same Room

**Thursday & Friday, February 5 & 6**

**8 a.m. – 5 p.m.**

Different Room

## NEW RESIDENCE HALL

**Tuesday & Wednesday, Feb. 10 & 11**

See lottery schedule

**Did You Know...**

about 1,000 students returned to campus housing this year?

# BALANCING ACT



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**It's time to choose your residence hall for next year. Some options include single and double rooms, suites, LLC's, and the new residence hall too.**

## ALL RESIDENCE HALLS

except LLC/Theme Communities

**Friday – Monday, February 13 – 16**

**8 a.m. Friday through 5 p.m. Monday**

Same Hall/Same Room

**Wednesday – Thursday, February 18 – 19**

**8 a.m. Wednesday through 5 p.m. Thursday**

Same Hall/Different Room

**Monday, February 23**

**8 a.m. – 5 p.m.**

Program Changes

**Wednesday – Thursday, February 25 – 26**

**See lottery schedule**

Different Room

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# Yakima closes habilitation center to improve lives

by Gloria Staley-Malenic  
Staff reporter

The Yakima Valley Residential Habilitation Center (RHC), which provides nursing home services to developmentally disabled citizens, is on Governor Christine Gregoire's rejection list.

According to Gov. Gregoire's 2009-2011 biennial budget proposal, Yakima Valley RHC will close by 2011, and will begin moving out this fall. Currently, Yakima Valley School (YVS) has 88 residents living on the campus, aged from 18 to 69 years old. According to the proposal, once the school closes, the residents will move to other RHC-supported living or nursing homes.

Although the closing of YVS is motivated by the state budget cuts, Von Ellison, executive director of Central Washington Disability Resources in Ellensburg, believes it is a human and civil rights issue.

"It may be an economic crisis, but while we continue to let this [institutionalization] happen, it is a crisis of conscience," Ellison said. According to Ellison, the agency is looking at the closure as an opportunity to begin to consolidate and downsize institutions.

All five RHC facilities in

Washington state have seen decreased resident numbers as institutionalization has been on a decline. In Washington state, by 2008, there were only 988 people living in RHC's, compared to just over 4,000 in 1966.

The declining trend is a result of special education in the 1970s and advances in providing quality supports and services that allow people to stay in their own homes and communities.

"I think [the closing of YVS] is a positive step," said Bruce Tabb, executive director of Elmview. "Once people are moved out of a facility they can have a better quality of life."

According to Tabb, Ellensburg has always been about community-based living as an alternative to institutions for people with developmental disabilities. Elmview is one main program that has been in the Ellensburg community since 1965 providing assistance and home care to those with developmental disabilities living on their own.

While many in the Ellensburg community are in favor of the closure, not all people around the state are. The Washington State Democratic Disabilities Issues Caucus (WSDIC) actively opposes the proposal saying the clo-

sure would "inflict serious economic harm to the local area."



Pete Los/Observer

One of the many empty facilities at the Yakima Valley Residential Habilitation Center.

"I think [closing YVS] is a positive step."

Bruce Tabb

Executive Director of Elmview

sure would "inflict serious economic harm to the local area."

According to Dolores White, YVS Admission Coordinator, parents are the most concerned for their children living in YVS. Many of the residents have been in the institution the majority of their lives and the employees are like family to them, White said.

In a Northwest Public Radio interview, Juanita Needham, mother of a resident in YVS, said that YVS is her son's home and that Gregoire "doesn't realize that the kids in this facility are more fragile than the kids in others."

While White does support people with disabilities living in the community, she said, "The majority of our residents are profoundly disabled and

require 24/7 care. If families or guardians felt comfortable with them being in the community they would have chose that for them."

The state labor union that represents YVS employees is actively against the proposal. Critics say the amount saved by closing the facility is not worth the amount of care residents need, and even state Democrats support the proposal.

The state Democratic Party's Central Committee, which oversees the organization's state-level business and legislative priorities, unanimously passed a resolution opposing closure of YVS.

As an advocate for people with developmental disabilities, Tabb said he wants to make sure the legislature is aware of the success people

have in the Ellensburg communities, hoping it will support the closure.

One man who has been living on his own in Ellensburg for 19 years has benefited from local programs. At the age of 5 Mike Carpenter was placed in YVS, left at age 14, then later went back for a short period of time.

"I never liked it," Carpenter said. "The way I remember it in my head and my heart is not good to think about."

Carpenter now has a home care provider that cooks for him and does his laundry. Everything else is taken care of by Carpenter himself. Working at Elmview paper recycling, Carpenter enjoys being on his own.

"I like that I can do more stuff for myself," Carpenter said. "Like be with my friends, or watch the TV programs or movies I want to watch." Disney movies are Carpenter's favorite and he has quite the collection.

Carpenter and his friends are a close circle who support one another and are very passionate about closures of institutions. Referring to the people in the facilities as their brothers and sisters, they are concerned for their safety and freedom.

Carpenter, along with his friends and other advocates, are returning to Olympia on March 2 to have their voices heard to support the closure of YVS.

According to White, YVS has had groups of employees go to Olympia to lobby to keep YVS open for their residents and those that don't have a voice, every chance they get.

"That people think they can tear them [residents of YVS] away from their community, environment, home, and family, and expect them to be OK, is what concerns me," White said. "These are fragile, vulnerable people and it could be a life or death circumstance."

Thinking of becoming  
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Are you facing a career change? Or looking for something challenging where you can make a difference in people's lives? If so, you're a great candidate to become a teacher – and Seattle Pacific University has the programs to put you in the classroom.

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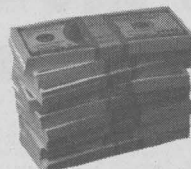
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# Central students and staff lobby for Planned Parenthood

by Megan Peters  
Staff reporter

Passing around petition sheets and staging demonstrations is probably what comes to mind when people hear the phrase "citizen activists" or "lobbying." However, that is not always the case. Every year in Ellensburg, Planned Parenthood works with other affiliates in Washington state, working along with NARAL (National Abortion and Reproductive Rights Action League), Pro-Choice America to train community members how to be citizen activists.

Citizen activists are said to be the original grass roots organizers. They are the people that have built a club from the ground up, organized activities in children's schools and mobilized neighbors to turn out to city council meetings and the state capital. Citizen activists work to build relationships with people in their community and offer them opportunities for leadership.

People support Planned Parenthood and Reproductive Health and Rights Lobby Day in large numbers, according to Jen Ham, public affairs field organizer of Planned Parenthood

of Central Washington.

"Across the state, Reproductive Health and Rights Lobby Day generally has approximately 350 to 400 participants," Ham said. "We are hoping to have 70 from eastern Washington and about 50 from the affiliate area of Planned Parenthood of Central Washington."

Every year Planned Parenthood usually focuses on two issues. This year they are lobbying for funding for the Community

Service Office (CSO) Family Planning Nurse Program that was recently cut in Washington state, along with general funding for reproductive health care. They are also asking leg-

islators to support the Proven Programs Act, which would ensure that the state only applies for federal funds for sexual health programs that are evidence-based, comprehensive, and proven to be effective at delaying sexual activity amongst youth. The act is similar to the 2007 Healthy Youth Act, which states that if schools in Washington teach sexual health education, it must be medically and scientifically accurate and comprehensive.

"When people think of Planned Parenthood, they think we are pushing for abortions, but that's not it," said Erika Harder, senior French major and past lobbyist for Planned Parenthood. "We are always working to keep reproductive health available for everyone."

Planned Parenthood strongly believes that it is important for people to create the kind of change they wish to see. It works to give citizens the tools needed to help them reach that change. Each year Planned Parenthood holds Reproductive Health and Rights Lobby Day. It is a good way for students to get involved in the political process, according to Harder.

"It is important to become involved in any way you can," Harder said. "People take our system for granted. They think, 'I voted, so that is enough, but it's not. You have to watch your legislators and be active.'"

Lobbying is not the only way to reach state legislators. Harder explains that she sends e-mail to them on a regular basis. For Scott Patton, junior political science major, lobbying was a natural choice that matched his beliefs.

"I got involved with lobbying for Planned Parenthood because I believe that access to the family planning services that Planned Parenthood provides improves the quality of life of people who may not normally have access to these services," Patton said.

Each year Planned Parenthood picks a day during

## Tips for successful lobbying

- Don't be intimidated by the thought of approaching elected officials.
- Be concise.
- Use all available resources.
- Personalize your appeal.
- Cultivate legislative staff.
- Be honest.
- Research your legislators.
- Identify your bill or issue clearly.
- During the legislative session, constantly check your bill's status.
- Keep things friendly.
- Avoid party politics.
- Be flexible.
- Express gratitude.

Tips courtesy of <http://www.hsus.org>

the legislative session to visit Washington state's elected representatives to discuss reproductive health rights. This year they are holding a training session about lobbying on Sunday, Feb. 22. It will include practicing mock lobby visits, training on reproductive issues, and a chance for lobbyists to meet their fellow activists before heading to Olympia.

Approximately 70 people from all over eastern Washington will attend the training. They will be traveling via bus to Olympia the next morning to meet with local legislators. While the precise influence the lobbyists have over legislative decision-making in the United States can never be fully determined, every opportunity counts.

# Lottery determines 952 new residents

by Michael Ingram  
Staff reporter

To accommodate the rapidly growing student body, Central Washington University has built two new yet-

to-be-named residence halls that will house 476 students each.

These new residence halls are located just south of Central's Student Village Apartments and north of Central's

Music Education Building. The new residence halls will be for students who currently live in residence halls. There will be a lottery to decide who gets in.

The lottery will choose the 952 students who will be living in the new residence halls that are opening next fall.

According to Richard DeShields, senior director of University Housing and New Student Programs, each student currently living on campus has been assigned a number which gives them the opportunity to sign up for the new halls.

"Two hundred students have already signed up to be the first to live in Central's new residence halls and the spots are going quick," DeShields said.

"I'm really excited for a chance to live in the new residence halls," Arthur Nowicki, sophomore construction management major, said. "I've lived on campus for two years and would really enjoy a new environment."

According to DeShields, the residence halls cost approximately \$38 million and will be paid off throughout the next 30 years using a



Quinn Eddy/Observer

Construction nears completion on the new residence halls.

bonding process.

The money to fund the new halls came from the students' tuition. Along with the money, students helped design the residence halls.

Students on and off campus were surveyed about what they thought an ideal residence hall would look like and over 70 percent of them responded.

The complex will have two of the tallest residence halls on campus with four floors.

This is the beginning of an extensive new plan for all the residence halls.

According to DeShields, Central will eventually renovate all the existing residence halls on campus to bring a more modern and fresh feel to the university.

## Peace Corps On Campus March 4-5



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# AAP needs more tutors, SI Leadership

by Kevin Opsahl  
Staff reporter

Academic Achievement Programs (AAP) at Central Washington University are looking for more tutors and Supplemental Instruction leaders.

During winter quarter, some students who requested tutors have yet to get one because no tutors are available to teach the classes they requested. Those subjects include humanities, sociology, education, philosophy, geology and computer science. According to Student Support Services (SSS) they usually see a spike in tutor requests at the beginning of the quarter, at midterms and finals.

"I don't always have the students [I need and] it's a continuous problem," said Janine Graves, tutoring and SI coordinator. "We never have enough students who can commit. They have certain responsibilities with their classes, and of course, we want them to continue to do well in the subject area they are tutoring."

According to Graves, none of the 30 tutors on hand have taken geology 108, or introduction to environmental geology, which a student had requested help with.

"If there is a position for a sociology tutor, we would be happy to announce that to our classes," said sociology department Chair Hong Xiao. "We have many excellent students who would make great tutors."

Because the request can sometimes be overwhelming, AAP will forgo the "grade of a B+ or higher" requirement so students can get the help they need. All students must fill out a tutee application form before they can get a tutor.

"I know how desperate these students are, and they really need help," Graves said. "That's what we're here for." Tutors must have at least a 2.7 GPA, have received a grade of at least a B+ in the class that they wish to tutor and be enrolled in at least six or more credits each quarter, according to Graves. They must be enrolled in a tutoring methods course, EDF (Education Foundation) 201.

"Students are very busy,"



Quinn Eddy/Observer

Suhaila Hassounah (left), English literature graduate student and Writing Center consultant gives pointers to Mariah Lacey (right), graduate student in the Central English department.

said Neil McFarlein, director of Student Support Services. "They work. Some of them would like to [attend every session], but it's not possible. Many of them miss their tutoring sessions sometimes ... In effect [the tutees are] teaching themselves because they wait 10 or 15 minutes and [the tutors] don't show up."

SI provides extra help to students enrolled in courses which are "historically difficult," where enrollments are down or the class has a high percentage of withdrawals, D grades or failures.

"It's a larger time commitment," Graves said. "You have to take enough of the courses to feel really comfortable and knowledgeable in a certain class, and the instructors who prefer that ... I would love to have more SI sessions if I had the ... students who could commit to 10 to 12 hours a week."

SI sessions are open to all Central students enrolled in the SI-targeted class, and attendance at SI sessions is voluntary and confidential.

Graves said SSS is trying to hire employees to promote SI. The more students that sign up for SI, the better chances tutees for success.

For winter quarter 2009, classes in math, biology, chemistry and physics are currently being offered. Drop-in classes for accounting, business, economics and finance are also available.

According to the AAP Web site, SI programs have proven successful in increasing student achievement and retention.

SI leaders maintain close contact with the professor and students, and attend those classes with the student's regularly.

In addition to getting more tutors and SI leaders, AAP

## For more information

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Phone:  
509-963-2131

E-mail:  
gravesj@cwu.edu

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/~app

is working on hiring people full-time to promote SMART THINKING, an online tutoring program that is available to students. There will be a faculty and student demonstration of the program later in the year, according to Graves.

## WEATHER

Thursday, Feb. 19



Partly Cloudy

46°  
31°

Friday, Feb. 20



Partly Cloudy

46°  
31°

Saturday, Feb. 21



Mostly Cloudy

47°  
31°

Sunday, Feb. 22



Cloudy

42°  
30°

Monday, Feb. 23



Few Showers

46°  
30°

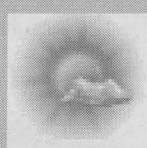
Tuesday, Feb. 24



Rain/Snow Showers

43°  
29°

Wednesday, Feb. 25



Partly Cloudy

24°  
30°

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## RETRACTIONS

### Planned Parenthood

The pull quote in last week's Planned Parenthood story was attributed to Jen Ham, but was actually made by Dena Dinius, RN, CSO family planning nurse.

### Wildcat Shop Theft

The Wildcat Shop story referred to individuals buying textbooks from Jerrol's or the Wildcat Shop, and then selling them back to the other store. The real crime is people stealing textbooks and then selling them back for a profit.



# opinion

## OBSERVER

The editorial views expressed are those of the writers and not necessarily the views of the newspaper staff at large, the student body, the faculty and administration and are certainly not to be considered as official views of Central Washington University.

## Hollywood flicks head downhill



**Kayla Schroader**  
Editor-in-Chief

ling," "Zack and Miri Make a Porno," James Bond: Quantum of Solace." In my opinion, "Defiance" wasn't too bad, it had a great theme and war stories never seem to get old. I even loved some of the leading actors in my playlist of featured films. It just seemed as though plots were stale and open ended, the drama was overshot and the humor was, well, ridiculous.

I'm afraid the dry spell in the economy is somehow weighing on the creative genius of the movie industry. Maybe movie makers are too scared to take chances at risk of losing profit. Maybe it's just my opinion shifting as I grow older and less easily entertained. Whatever the reason, I'm rather disappointed.

Some companies have resorted to other means of attraction, also known as the 3-D theater experiences. Media makers such as Laika Entertainment, Walden Media and Lionsgate prefer to interact with their viewers by entering a new dimension. Tim Burton's "Coraline," is an exceptional 3-D animated film. But aside from that, I would associate the films with amusement park rides more so than the art of the big screen. God forbid the next generation fall back on this sort of media. Magic has been made with movies before, and in time, I'm sure it will again.

I don't feel I'm alone in thinking Hollywood has gone downhill. It's been ages since I've seen a movie that really stuck with me. I can't even remember the last time I watched any sort of television programming that enlightened me or made my day. I know that they're out there, somewhere, but the media has accepted an awfully poor standard recently. Even I, unfortunately find myself sucked into those stupid, scripted reality shows. What a joke.

Last month I spent an entire Saturday watching new releases. That's right, eight movies total. I kept popping in another DVD, crossing my fingers that this one wouldn't waste the next two hours of my life. Nonetheless, the whole day was drained by bad movies: "Funny Games," "Surfer Dude," "Seven Pounds," "My Best Friend's Girl," "Defiance," "Change-

## Dear Editor,

I respect Mr. Smith's opinions and I am actually glad that a community member not associated with the college felt free enough to express his opinions in the Observer. However, the manner in which Mr. Smith presented his points came off very offensive and I believe they hurt his case rather than helped. Mr. Smith expresses his belief that there is no invisible curtain between the community and the campus. I for one feel that there is a small gap. But honestly how could there not be? The majority of the campus community consists of adults in their early twenties who have a much different lifestyle than the Ellensburg community at large. I believe this gap is unavoidable but I agree with Mr. Smith that sometimes the curtain is made out to be a much bigger deal than it is. The two communities get along quite well from my observations, and I have never heard of a case of angst between the two, until I read the letter in the Observer.

While I agree with Mr. Smith about the size of the curtain, I feel his remarks against Mr. James are misplaced and completely uncalled for. Keith James is a respected member and leader of the campus community and to completely disparage him in print is unnecessary and places a wedge between the two communities. Mr. James' idea for a safe ride program is exactly what any college campus needs. If anyone goes out to the bars with a group of friends or by themselves and has a couple of drinks, they should not drive home. They don't have to be "blotto sloppy drunk" to be over the blood alcohol limit of .08. In fact, for most people, two to three drinks will put them over the limit. Is it irresponsible for them to not want to risk their lives as well as the lives around them? Mr. Smith mentions treating the college students just as you would treat the rest of the community. I agree. I believe everyone in Ellensburg should have access to a safe ride program because I am sure there are plenty of locals who enjoy going out with friends and family to dance, hang out and drink. Regardless of what Mr. Smith thinks, just because you like to go out and appreciate having a drink or two with your friends does not make you an alcoholic, and it does not necessarily mean you have a problem.

Stacey Knabel  
Biology major

Preventing drunk driving is hardly what I would call ridiculous. Just because a person has had too much to drink and doesn't feel comfortable driving does not make them an alcoholic or even mean that they have an alcohol problem; it simply means they are drunk. Finding an alternate way home, be it walking or getting a ride from a sober person, such as with a safe ride program, is very responsible. A person who "has a few drinks" and then plays the wait-until-I feel-sober-game is not a person I would trust driving. Many accidents where alcohol plays a role are situations where the driver was merely intoxicated, not drunk. I guess what I am trying to say is it doesn't take a binge drinker to need a ride home from the bar. Also, let us keep in mind that when there are consequences to pay for drunk driving, it is not the driver who pays, it is the victims and their families. That is why I support a safe ride system, to encourage responsibility in drinkers, students and community members alike.

Chelsea Casey  
Public relations major

I would like to take a minute and just make a couple of clarifications to last week's article regarding textbook theft so the students get a better idea of the situation. Wildcat Shop employees had found a handful of textbook sensors that had been ripped off of the back covers of a number of different books. The Wildcat Shop and Jerrol's work very closely together to make sure that textbooks that are stolen from either store are not then sold back to the other store. The citation in the article that the 21-year-old woman was "buying books and then selling them to Jerrol's" was actually wrong. She had stolen the books from the Wildcat Shop and then tried to sell them back to Jerrol's as part of their buy back program. It wasn't just that she stole the books from the Wildcat Shop, but that she was trying to rip off Jerrol's with stolen merchandise. The Wildcat Shop and Jerrol's had already communicated the fact that we had books that had been damaged and stolen in order to sell back for cash. When Jerrol's received the books the student was trying to sell back as her own, Jerrol's copied her information and notified us as well as the police. We were then able to match the torn back covers with the tags that were left in our store (we aren't CSI, but we are clever). Charges have been pressed against this individual. Buying your books at the Wildcat Shop and then selling them back to Jerrol's, or vice versa, isn't illegal. It's the STEALING the books and then trying to sell them back that is illegal.

Also, when we stated that "if a person gets caught, they could jeopardize their education," we are completely serious. First, the institution can expel you for theft, whether it is in the Wildcat Shop, an administrative building, or computer lab. Second, not only will charges be pressed, but if the theft is over a certain amount of dollars, the student can be charged and convicted of a felony, which will stay on their record. Third, and in many ways most importantly, a felony charge can affect the ability to get federal financial aid for school and can show up on employment background checks. The Wildcat Shop, Jerrol's and Campus Police have been working hard to stop the theft because not only is it poor human etiquette, but when businesses lose money to theft, they have to make up that money somehow, and more often than not that involves raising the prices. Help us keep more money in your pockets by keeping theft down. For more information, please feel free to contact Steve Wenger at 509-963-1353.

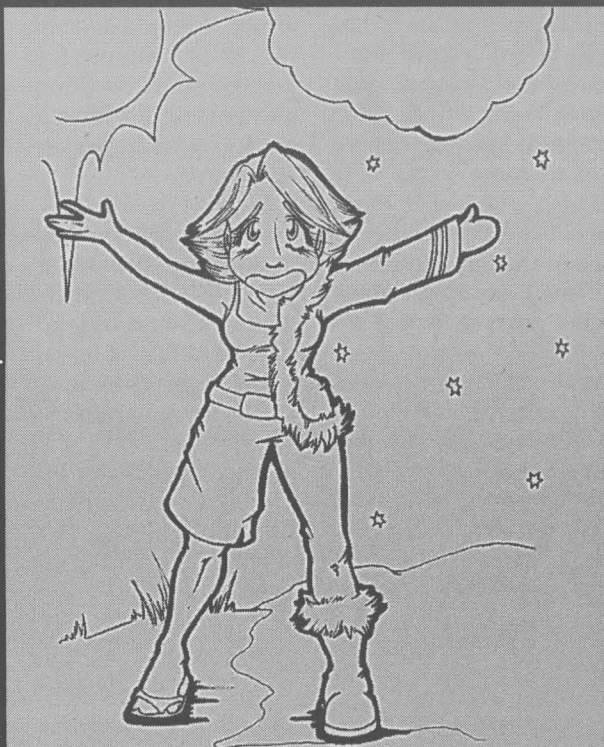
Steve Wenger  
Wildcat Shop director

To read more letters to the Editor, please visit [cwu.edu/~observer/](http://cwu.edu/~observer/) and click on opinion.

The Observer welcomes brief letters (300 words or less) from readers on current issues. Include the author's full name and university affiliation: year and major, degree and year graduated or department.

All letters become property of The Observer. E-mail letters to [cwuobserver@gmail.com](mailto:cwuobserver@gmail.com).

## The artist's eye ...



Sylvia Armitstead/Observer



# Internet thieves tap the wires



**Amy Thompson**  
Staff reporter

With technology advancing rapidly and with new options and features appearing so frequently, sometimes we may not think that something we are doing is wrong, or considered an illegal action.

Every day, people pirate DVDs, download illegal music copies, or splice their neighbor's cable signal. We have all been warned that these actions are illegal.

Wireless Internet connections have been on the rise and the opportunity to "borrow" someone else's signal is readily available.

According to Jupiter Research, business and technology based research, 14 percent of wireless owners have accessed a neighboring connection. This is happening more and more as wireless Internet becomes commonplace.

Although it is not illegal to access an unsecured neighbor-

ing network, it is still unethical. Wireless Internet is not a cheap investment.

Perhaps it is not so bad to simply check your e-mail or do some browsing that does not slow down the server a noticeable amount using your neighbor's connection.

However, when people steal a neighboring signal and take part in activities that could slow down the connection immensely, such as downloading, it is wrong.

Where that line should be drawn is the question. Is it harmless borrowing, or sneaky thievery?

Today, there are plenty of "hot spots" where free Internet is provided. So to log online with a connection you did not purchase or have permission to access is immoral.

Where I am torn on this issue is that it is simple and quick to secure a network or install encryption to stop unwanted use of a

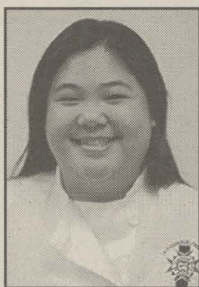
wireless signal. If the wireless customers are careless enough to neglect putting some sort of security on their connection, they are partially at fault for any hacking of their network.

Wireless Internet is still new in the world of technology, so it may be some time before we see specific laws on the issue.

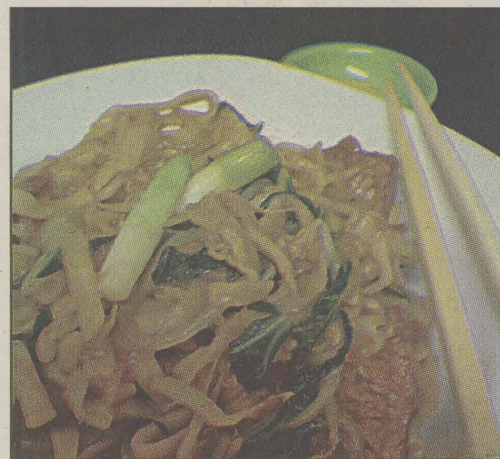
So, it remains a personal moral question of what we feel is right or wrong.

“According to Jupiter Research ... 14 percent of wireless owners have accessed a neighboring connection.”

# Culinary Corner: Chow Fun



**Rachel Guillermo**  
Culinary Columnist



I absolutely love Chinese food and growing up in Hawaii, I was lucky enough to get a more authentic taste of the East than most Americans do. But in Ellensburg I don't have many options to satisfy my cravings for the dishes I can only get back home.

One of my favorite dishes is a noodle dish called chow fun. What makes this dish are the extra wide rice noodles, called he fen or haw fun, that soak up all the flavor of the dish. So with the ingredients I could have here, I've made my own version of the classic Cantonese dish.

## Ingredients

8 oz. mung bean sprouts, about 4 cups, rinsed and drained well  
1 lb. bok choy  
1 lb. flank steak well trimmed  
2 T. soy sauce  
3 T. cornstarch  
3 tsp. rice cooking wine  
2 T. black bean paste  
2 lb. fresh Asian noodles  
4 T. vegetable oil  
1 1/2 tablespoon garlic minced  
1 tsp. kosher salt  
4 scallions, cut into 2-inch sections  
3-4 T. oyster sauce  
3 Cups of water

## Directions

Cut the bok choy into 1/4 in. strips.

Halve the flank steak with the grain into 2 strips. Cut each strip across the grain into 1/4-inch-thick slices. Place in a shallow bowl, add the soy sauce, cornstarch, and rice wine, and stir to combine; set aside.

Heat a large wok or skillet over high heat. Add 1 tablespoon oil add garlic to wok, and stir-fry about 15 to 30 seconds, until fragrant. Add the beef, spreading it in the wok. Cook, undisturbed, 30 seconds to 1 minute, letting the beef begin to brown. Add the black bean paste and stir-fry 1 to 2 minutes, or until beef is browned but still slightly rare. Transfer to a plate and set aside. Add 1 tablespoon oil into the wok and stir-fry the bok choy for 30 seconds. Add the leaves and 1 tsp. salt, stir-fry until the stalks are bright green and the leaves are limp. Transfer to a plate and set aside. Rinse wok and dry it thoroughly.

Re-heat wok over high heat, add 2 T. oil to the wok with the noodles, spreading them in the wok. Cook for 1 minute, or until slightly crusty. Add the bean sprouts and stir-fry 1 to 2 minutes. Return the bok choy and beef with any juices that have accumulated to the wok, then add the water. Cook noodles until almost all of the water is gone. If the noodles are still a bit gummy, add a little more water until the noodles are done. Add the oyster sauce and scallions, and stir-fry until heated through and well combined. Adjust seasonings to taste and serve immediately.

Send comments, questions and concerns to [cwculinarycorner@gmail.com](mailto:cwculinarycorner@gmail.com)

# Weather wars in the valley thunder on



**Caleb Hermans**  
Copy desk

For years humans have been involved in a feud older than Coke versus Pepsi, McDonald's versus Burger King, and even Cain versus Abel. The conflict so subtly underlies our daily interactions that many are unaware of any conscious participation. I'm referring to the quintessential "man versus the elements," or more specifically, me versus the weather.

I know it seems absurd to hold a grudge against something so unorthodox, but weather seriously pisses me off. Nothing raises my ire to boiling agitation faster than a raging wind blowing rain into my face as I stagger home from the bars at dark-thirty in the morning. Wind and rain are a tag-team of aggravation. Rain makes you appear to have taken a bathroom break in your pants and wind makes you look like you combed your hair with a jet engine.

It is the most temperamental force I can imagine. Thinking of playing a little tennis? A sudden spring-time cloudburst will shut that idea down in a hurry. You and your girlfriend want to spend a romantic moment watching the sun set? Hopefully you remembered a jacket, because the evening

chill doesn't care about your love-life. So you made plans to visit your family on the west side this weekend? Better cancel them, because the incoming blizzard begs to differ. It's always too hot, too cold, too windy, too this or that, the list is endless.

What baffles me lately, is seeing people walking around obliviously in shorts and T-shirts, as if the freezing temperature has no effect on them. Then, when reality sets in, they conjure up a verbal storm of scornful disapproval that rivals the physical storm they were cavalierly taunting by sashaying around, sporting ill-suited attire. "I'm too cold," they whine.

Really? Maybe that's because it's winter, you clowns! It is February, people, not July, for those of you who missed the

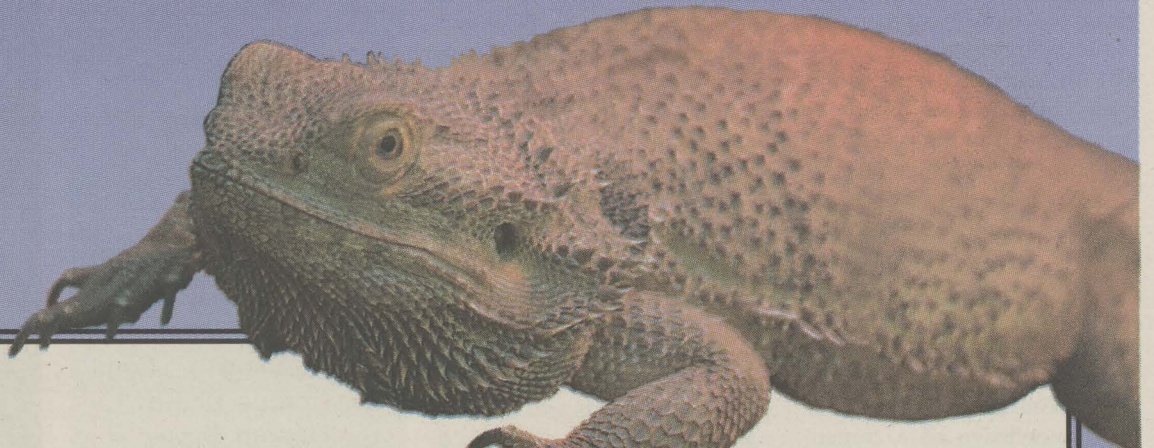
memo. There is no such thing as an early spring either. Punxsutawney Phil always sees his fat little shadow imprinted on the ground, spelling out tidings of six more weeks of infernal winter. Even if it was warm outside, the weather can change in the blink of an eye, so be smart and don't underestimate your circumstances. It's better to be prepared than try to show the weather who's boss by wearing summer apparel while there's still frost on the ground.

My final beef climaxes with the fact that unless you're on 'shrooms, there is no tangible way to exact revenge on such ghostly antagonists as wind or rain. If I could find a way to manifest weather into a material entity, I would take it out behind the 'ol woodshed and give it a world-class beat

down. I would unleash years worth of pent-up fury in a battle royale, resulting in me pummeling it within an inch of its eternally exasperating existence.

Maybe I'm alone in this, but perhaps weather is not entirely to blame for these volatile emotions. What if Mother Nature represents everything that we cannot influence or control to some degree as humans? Maybe the elements reflect our own powerlessness to command every aspect of our lives. You can turn a light switch on and off, adjust the volume on your iPod, eat when you're hungry, swat at a fly and scratch an itch, but weather will always be a thorn in your side as long as you live on this planet. You can dress for it all you want, but the weather will always wear the pants.





## Pets employed at local stores

by Erica Spalti  
Staff reporter

After a long day at school, sisters Rowan Utzinger, age 7, and Willow Lowgen, age 4, come skipping into the pet center on North Pearl to visit some of their favorite Ellensburg pets. Rowan posts her elbows on the front counter and Willow, who is not quite tall enough rests her chin on the counter to say hello to Buddy, the African gray parrot.

The pet store is best known for Buddy, who is on business cards and the canvas out front of the store. Buddy, who is 22 years old, came with the store when Jackie Silva bought it four years ago. Being used to the hustle and bustle of business, Jackie decided that Buddy should stay in the store and be the official mascot.

"It is basically her store, and we just work here," Silva said.

There is a pet in the store that may be quite unfamiliar to some, Tai the bearded dragon.

"Tai was given to us after she was found abandoned in an apartment," Silva said. "Last year she had 96 babies and we just sold the last one in November."

Down the road at 114 W. 4th St. at Fitterer's Furniture, there are two other feathered friends, Para and Keet. The two parakeets reside in Fitterer's and have been part of a long tradition. The parakeets have been there for about 15 years.

"They add a nice outdoor feel," Cheryl Krueger, business manager at Fitterer's said. "It is something else that the customer can relate to instead of just coming in to buy something."

Around the corner a bit on North Main Street at Bailey's Bibliomania is where customers can find a dog who is prone to tag along on the heels of her master.

Employee Lisa Price works most of the afternoons alone at Bailey's, therefore she brings her 9-year-old Sheltie, Sushi, to keep her company.

"She is kind of the unofficial door greeter," Price said.

Similar is the story of Baxter, a four-year-old Abyssinian Guinea pig at the Ellensburg Pet Center located on North Pearl.

"He doesn't like to be left alone at home," Jackie Silva, owner of the local pet store said. "He is really friendly and always wants food."

When passing by the Main Street Market Antique Mall, also located on North Main Street, it is hard not to notice sad, droopy Labrador eyes staring out at the afternoon traffic from behind a window until someone opens the door. Gabe, the 7-year-old Labrador chow mix, is there to greet customers with his tie on and tail wagging.

"Gabe is our executive greeter, he wears a tie to work," Sandy Palmer, owner of Main Street Market Antique Mall said. "He has reactive attachment disorder where he can't be left alone, so my wife started bringing him to work."

While Gabe is friendly now, it took Deb Palmer two weeks to train Gabe how to greet customers politely, instead of barking at them.

Being a serious employee, Gabe comes to work each morning dressed to impress, with different ties for different occasions. His best attire thus far is a red satin cummer bun with a bow tie which he parades around in during the week of New Year's.

According to Palmer, March's tie will likely be green in celebration of St. Patrick's Day.

Over at Boogie Man Music on West 3rd Avenue, people will see two yellow, narrow eyes looking back at them from the shadows. It is hard not to notice Mick, the 9-year-old cat, curled up with his round tummy hanging off the edge of the stool to left of the door.

Mick has been at Boogie Man Music for two years when owners Kevin and Ginger Fairfield had to bring him in the store because they couldn't have a cat in their new house.

However, do not be fooled by this sly character. While Mick may look like an ordinary cat, he is a huge ladies man.

"I was in there one afternoon with my friend and I was sitting there petting him," Emma Cook, sophomore undeclared major, said. "I stopped petting him for a min-

ute and I felt this tap on my shoulder and he had put his paw on my shoulder kind of like nudging me to keep petting him."

Whether pets are in stores because they don't like being left alone at home, or because they add a different feel to the store environment, the concept is becoming very popular around town.

There is nothing like someone coming home after a long day of work, or even a student coming home for a weekend or break, and being greeted by their furry friend. With Ellensburg being a small, cozy town, these downtown mascots give back that feeling of home, which many people often miss.



Photos by Pete Loss/Observer

Top left: Buddy, the African gray parrot from the Ellensburg Pet Center. Top right: Tai, the bearded dragon from the Ellensburg Pet Center. Bottom right: Gabe, the Labrador chow mix from the Main Street Market Antique Mall.



# Wiccan, pagan group readies for Ostara

by Mimi Oh  
Staff reporter

Alan Stewart, sophomore religious studies major and the head priest would like people to check out the Wiccan pagan group of which he is a member.

"Joining other people, it's just the same as any other faith," Stewart said about the benefits of joining in group worship. "It draws you in closer and it allows you to share ideas ... I believe that group working helps me better because I'm a people person."

Students interested should e-mail or call Stewart first, and then meet with the group.

At meetings, everyone brings their knowledge of a certain topic.

Sometimes, people will prepare for upcoming rituals and holidays.

Ostara is the holiday that will arrive soonest, but the group is also planning to celebrate the new moon ritual on Tuesday, Feb. 24.

"New moon kind of signifies the beginning of the Wiccan and pagan month," Stewart said. "[The ritual meaning is] to do better than we did before. The full moon is to look back on what we have done."

While many students are looking ahead to Easter and Easter candy, the unofficial Wiccan pagan group is preparing for their spring equinox (Ostara) celebration.

The group shares a love of holiday foods, and they will be making lots of foods containing eggs, which represent new life and rebirth.

Stewart explained that Ostara is a celebration of the Mother Goddess and the Father God transitioning from their crone phases to their young phases.

The four members present on Feb. 6 brainstormed foods

for the holiday.

Star cookies, chocolates, deviled eggs, chocolate bread and meringue pie were all potential foods.

"Paganism is generally characterized by, in the most basic terms that can be found in the dictionary, any religion that's not one of the main monotheistic three," said Jen Klee, senior cultural anthropology major.

"Also known as one of the 'book religions'," said Amber Brown, priestess and senior history and religious studies major, referring to Judaism, Christianity and Islam.

"In very loose terms, you can call Buddhists and Hindus pagan, but I'm not sure they'd take offense to it, so much as disagree with you," finished Klee.

Stewart jokingly bemoaned how, as one of two men in the association, he would end up being the celebration's priest.

With his hair short and tapered according to ROTC regulations, Stewart appeared very clean cut.

This time of year is also a popular time to perform handfasting.

Handfasting is a type of relationship commitment ceremony, which Stewart said is the Wiccan and pagan equivalent to marriage.

One key difference is that it must be renewed after some time has passed. Stewart plans to handfast with his girlfriend, Melinda Ferdig.

Stewart asked Klee and Brown who wanted to be the holiday's priestess.

Wicca and paganism center around an Earth-empowerment deity or goddess, so it tends to attract more women than men, and a healthy share of feminists.

Klee and Brown said that balance and freedom are im-

## Wiccan Pagan Terms

**Wicca-** includes many forms of Goddess-oriented neopagan witchcraft.

**Paganism-** any religion that's not one of the main monotheistic three.

**Ostara-** celebration of the Mother Goddess and the Father God transitioning from their crone phases to their young phases.

**Handfasting-** a type of relationship commitment ceremony equivalent to marriage.

**Priestess-** a woman who presides over religious rites, especially in pagan religions.

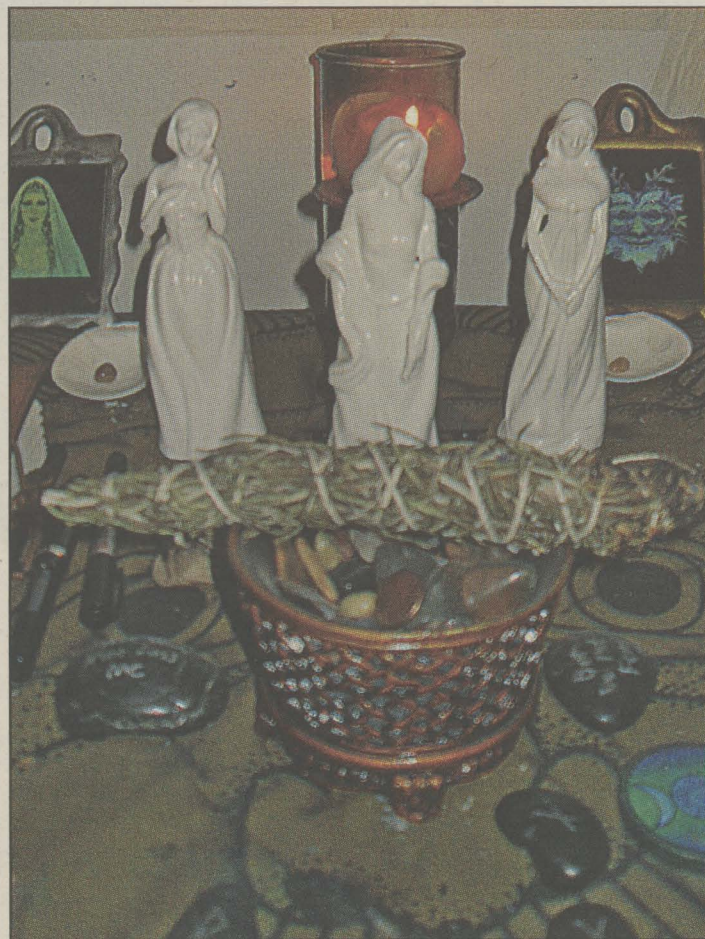


Photo courtesy of Raven Nevermore

An altar featuring three aspects of the mother goddess: the Maiden, Mother and Crone - framed by the Goddess Bridgit (back left) and Cernunnous or Greenman (back right).

portant to their faiths. Each member makes a personal decision to focus on the deity of their preference, independent of the group. Many people practice solitarily.

"I would say one of the big things that come up with people who don't know what Wicca and paganism is, is that a lot of them automatically associate it with devil worshipping - Satanism," Brown bounced off of Klee.

"Which I don't even believe in," Klee said.

"Yup, I don't believe in an ultimate source of evil," Brown said.

As sunlight streamed in, the

two explained how they are often mistakenly associated with negative images.

After being asked about a fertility ritual reference, the two anticipated a mental association with orgies.

The group does not perform any rituals of that nature.

Also, the group does not perform rituals skyclad, their term for being naked.

On Wednesday, Feb. 11 at 1 p.m., Stewart met again and laid out an easy-to-pack altar.

He said that he buys supplies from several shops.

Stewart then gave a tarot card reading.

The reading answered a ques-

tion, "What should I be doing?"

Cards were interpreted to mean, in this reading that multiple paths should be explored instead of just one set path.

Although Wiccans and pagans generally have a negative image, Stewart's biography blasted it away.

"Actually, in the church, and Index [a church], at least half the men who attend the church are veterans or prior service," Stewart said ... "Our faith is very accepting of the warrior class. We do not see going off to war to defend our country as a bad thing, because going over to Iraq and somebody shooting at you and you shoot back, that's not murder, so we don't see it as a bad thing. We see it as a good thing, because you're going to war when others can't."

Stewart compared the Boy Scout oath to perform a good deed everyday to his belief that whatever he does will return to him threefold.

He also describes his faith background as a Mormon mother, Jewish biological father and a Catholic stepfather.

"When I was a child, I got lost in the woods ... and an albino stag came up to me the next morning and I started following it and it jumped over a bush and there was my campsite. And I always thought that this was some sort of dream, until I came to paganism and found that there is a god that was very connected to my family in Scotland ... [Cernunnous] ... takes a bodily form as a white stag."

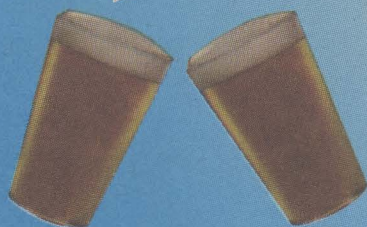
Ostara takes place on March 22. Anyone may attend.

## OPEN MIC NIGHT at GRANT'S PIZZA PLACE

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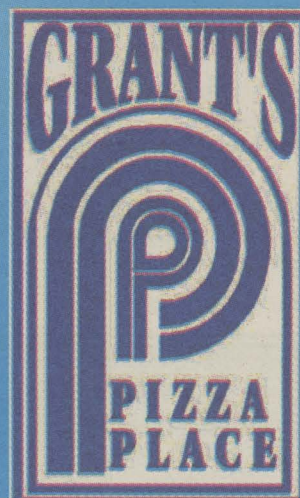
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# Potato-chili feed raises money for vets

by Ryan Ricigliano  
Staff reporter

With the bitter cold of winter still lingering, Central Washington University students can be found seeking out warm meals within the Student Union and Recreation Center (SURC).

Yet, for those willing to traverse outside the boundaries of campus, the Center for Student Empowerment and the local Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) are putting on a chili and baked potato feed to raise money for soldiers.

The dinner, which will be held at 6 p.m. on Feb. 20 at the First Lutheran Church on 512 N. Ruby St., will feature homemade chili and endless baked potatoes, complete with all the dressings (butter, sour cream, bacon bits, cheese and chives).

Although the event is free to the public, donations are encouraged to help support the local VFW.

"This is an event aimed at

getting word out to veterans on campus about the services available to them and enhancing the vet-friendly atmosphere here on campus," said Michelle Cyrus, assistant director for non-traditional student programs.

Cyrus and the Disability Support Services (DSS) Center are helping to put the event together on the campus end of things. The student club, Access, Belonging, Learning, and Empowerment (A.B.L.E.), will be providing volunteers for the dinner.

"Our club is involved because the disability rights movement started with veterans of the Vietnam War," said Carolyn Cheung, junior nutrition major and president of A.B.L.E.

Ian Campbell, assistant director of the DSS Center and A.B.L.E. advisor, feels that this event also allows them to give back to the community.

"As contributing citizens of the United States we have a moral responsibility to reach

## Veterans of Foreign Wars

Monetary donations can be sent to:

Veterans of Foreign Wars  
141 Cove Road Ellensburg,  
WA 98926

For more information call  
(509) 964-2133

out to these veterans," Campbell said.

From the community spectrum, Veterans of Foreign Wars Commander Gene Ketzenburg will help to coordinate the VFW's involvement.

"We want to let young students on campus know that we don't just sit around and that we are active in the community, helping families and supporting vets," Ketzenburg said.

Ketzenburg, a veteran of the Vietnam War, is actively involved with helping and assisting other veterans in Ellensburg and throughout

Kittitas County.

His stories of generosity range from helping to pay bills for a young soldier's family to putting together scholarships for local youths.

Together with Don Morris, another patron of the VFW, the two lobbied for the city of Ellensburg to erect a veteran's memorial in a local park. The park, Veteran's Memorial Park, had its name changed to Memorial Park during the Vietnam War and Ketzenburg thought it was time to properly honor these veterans.

It's this philanthropic spirit that has inspired Ketzenburg to put on another fundraiser aimed at giving back: the chili feed. The donations procured at the door will be used to buy sweatpants and sweatshirts, along with any other clothing needed, for veterans domestic and abroad. Money will also be used to create more care packages sent to soldiers fighting overseas.

This past Christmas, Ketzenburg and the local

VFW sent 1,900 care packages to soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"We send over stuff they can't get - stuff we take for granted," Ketzenburg said. "Let's put it this way little tubes of toothpaste at the stores over there are almost \$9, so every month we try to send three tubes of toothpaste and a toothbrush."

Yet, for Ketzenburg one of the most important aspects to making a difference starts right here at home. He continually comes back to the students and how much he believes in the value of an education.

Ketzenburg believes it vital that there be a link between veterans, the community and the college.

"I think they are doing a great job [at the college] and are trying to get word out about more things available," Ketzenburg said. "There are a lot of good programs and we are out there to educate these young vets."

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# CWU ALERT!

The winter quarter system test will be TODAY,  
February 19, at 12:00 noon. Expect phones to ring  
and Desktop Alert to be activated!



# Oak Rail hosts bikini contest

by Amber Ramento  
Staff reporter

Girls will be taking the stage in their bikinis at 11 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 19 at the Oak Rail Tavern. Judges will be present and the crowd will be taking part by cheering for the girls they like. Only one girl will walk away with the \$300 prize.

This will be the Oak Rail's second year hosting the Bikini Contest. The contest is sponsored by Pebble Beach Tanning. Unlike last year, there will be a \$3 cover charge to get into the Oak Rail, located at 301 N. Pearl St. Domestic beers will be \$3 each.

Pebble Beach Tanning will be providing spray tan for the girls

in the contest, free tanning slips, and lotion samples and shirts to throw to the crowd. They will also be donating half of the cash prize and the free tanning prize (yet to be determined).

Last year there were only 12 girls that participated. This year there are already 15 participants. Participants could sign up until Feb. 15 and must be 21 years or older.

Last year, the contest was judged by the crowd, but this year two judges will be added, one provided by Pebble Beach Tanning and one provided by the Oak Rail along with the rest of the crowd.

"This is the first year that the Cuervo Girls will be at the contest," Tina Little, Oak Rail employee, said.

"The best part about doing this is the crowd."

Haley Weston  
Oak Rail Employee

The Cuervo Girls are a group that helps promote Jose Cuervo tequila.

The contest participants are asked to pick a song they would like to be introduced with, then are judged on looks, personality and how they present themselves.

"The best part about doing this, is the crowd," said Haley Weston, Oak Rail employee. "Last year we had about 500 people in here."

People involved claim that last year, the event took place on a Saturday night and was a complete hit. This year, the event will be on a Thursday night. Everyone involved hopes that with the Cuervo girls, it will be just as fun.

"The best part is spray tanning all the girls and watching them get excited and nervous,"

Shannon Wall, Pebble Beach Tanning owner, said. "I was also worried that we weren't going to find any pretty girls, but they were all just gorgeous."



Photo courtesy of Pebble Beach Tanning

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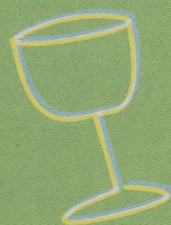
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# Central celebrates black history month

by Amy Thompson  
Staff reporter

Throughout February there are interactive and special events taking place on the Central Washington University campus in honor of Black History Month.

Well-known guest speakers, memoir displays, and questionnaire opportunities are among the events.

"The Dialogue Project" also known as "Speed RACEing" will take place at 7 p.m. on Feb. 24 in the Student Union and Recreation Center (SURC) Ballroom.

The event is an hour-long session where people sit with other students for three minutes and have the opportunity to ask them questions. Everyone is invited to participate.

"It's a project where we are engaging groups in dialogue," Marian Lien, director of the Diversity Education Center, said. "People are prompted to ask questions about race and identity. They can ask any-

thing and everything about race and cultures without feeling embarrassed. It's an educational experience."

There will be a panel discussion on race and identity at 7 p.m. on Feb. 25 in the SURC Theatre to follow up and take a more in-depth look at presented questions. The panel, which consists of approximately 20 students, will answer anonymously submitted questions regarding race and identity.

The panel discussion will cover a number of topics, including but not limited to sexual orientation, identity and multiracial questions, according to Tony Foland, senior sociology and ethics major and student programmer for the Diversity Education Center.

"I think it's important to bring a program like this to Central because I think there are a lot of questions that need to be answered, but people may not ask them because they feel it's inappropriate," Foland said.

In partnership with the Diversity Education Center, nine campus organizations have invited Talib Kweli and Jeff Chang to Central.

Kweli is a popular rap artist and Chang is a well-known hip-hop journalist.

At 7 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 26 in the SURC Ballroom, Kweli and Chang will discuss race, religion, and politics.

Admission is free, however tickets are limited. People may retrieve tickets in SURC room 253.

In addition to the events around campus, during the month of February there will be a display of documents and memorabilia shown across the hall on the second floor of the SURC to honor black history.

On March 6, an event called "Showtime at the McConnel" at 7 p.m. in the McConnel Auditorium will honor Black History Month. This event is an opportunity for students to perform and show their talents. It is a review show where

the audience can judge the performances and participate throughout the evening. There is a \$2 admission fee. Part of the proceeds will go towards helping local veterans.

This event is special to the campus, because it is a tribute to the historic Apollo Theater in Harlem.

The Apollo Theater was where many famous African American artists first began their musical careers.

"We're all making history still today," said Anthony Peterson, senior law and justice and sociology double major and co-president to the Black Student Union. "I like

the fact that people are getting together to celebrate American history, just informing people."

February has been dedicated to honoring black history since 1976.

Dr. Carter G. Woodson, the father of Black History Month, first established the idea in 1915, according to an article found on the Association for the Study of African American Life and History Web site.

Carter chose the month of February in part because it is the birth month of prominent historical figures Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln.

## Black History Month

**Feb. 24:** "Dialogue Project" at 7 p.m. in the SURC Ballroom.

**Feb. 25:** panel discussion at 7 p.m. in the SURC Theatre

**Feb. 26:** Talib Kweli and Jeff Chang at 7 p.m. in the SURC Theater

**March 6:** "Showtime at the McConnel" honoring the Apollo Theatre at 7 p.m. in the McConnel Auditorium

# 'Running the taps' gains glory, T-shirt



**Matt Robinson**  
Special to Observer

What if someone were to tell you that the cost for glory at its finest is only \$35?

It feels great to achieve something, especially at the benefit of gaining respect from others.

In this town, one of those

great achievements is running the taps at the Oak Rail.

"Basically, it's both a promotion and a fun thing for customers," said Tina Little, a bartender at the Oak Rail.

Running the taps consists of drinking a glass of all 11 beers the Oak Rail has on tap, in one night.

Not only is it a challenging way to get smashed, but, essentially you're drinking about two of those beers for free, with the price break.

"Running the taps" started about two years ago to attract more customers, and it's been successful.

Everyone who runs the taps gets a card with their name on it posted on the wall of the

bar, and to date, over 200 people have completed the feat. Champions of the taps also receive a free T-shirt.

In fact, they have three different colored T-shirts for repeat "champions."

"Several customers have come back to repeat since I've worked here," Little notes.

"I can barely remember what happened that night," said recent CWU graduate Joshua Greisen, who successfully ran the taps last year. "It took them a month for them to get me the T-shirt, but it was definitely worth it, I think."

However, running the taps is not for everyone.

Eleven beers in one night is a rough terrain to conquer for

the soft-livered.

The bar will not hesitate to cut you off if you're not holding your booze, and if you don't have a designated driver, you don't run the taps.

Yes, with glory comes responsibility.

"You can't drive if you're going to run the taps," Little said.

While running the taps may hold a special achievement, other bars around town use unique promotions as well.

For instance, the Starlight

Lounge gives a 50 percent discount on well drinks and draft beers on Tuesday nights, and the Horseshoe is holding a beer pong tournament (\$20 entrance fee) on March 4.

If strapped for cash, there are still a lot of ways to make a trip downtown a relatively thrifty and exceedingly fun one.

Sure, some parties have keg cups for \$5, and 30-packs of Busch are less than \$15, but remember one question: Where is the glory?

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# Getting to the bottom of Mel's Hole

by Darcy Wytko  
Online Editor

Mel's Hole is nowhere to be found.

Apparently, neither is Mel.

Legend has it the bottomless hole on Manastash Ridge in Kittitas, emits black rays of light and causes transistor radios to play songs from the past. Throw down a rock, a refrigerator, or even a cow, but the sound of hitting bottom will never come. Animals won't go near it, yet people have searched for it for years.

The hole is even rumored to reanimate the dead.

"This could be an apocryphal story, but one guy claims he threw his departed canine down into the hole," Mel Waters told radio host Art Bell more than a decade ago. "And he

swears the dog actually came back to him."

Since his first call into Bell's paranormal radio program Coast to Coast AM in 1997, Waters' alleged discovery of the world's deepest hole

with supernatural properties has exploded into a nationwide urban legend that flourishes today.

Last November, Travel and Leisure magazine named Mel's Hole one of the top 10 most mysterious places in America.

"I consider it the most perfect myth in the state of Washington," said Charlette LeFevre, the director of the Seattle Museum of Mysteries and board member of the Seattle UFO and Paranormal Group, which has searched for the hole several times. "If it does exist, it's something very unusual."

As Waters describes it, Mel's Hole stretches nine feet wide, plunges more than 15 miles deep, and is surrounded by a three-foot high retaining wall. He claims locals have known about the hole for years, using it as a mystical dumping ground for dead and diseased cattle, rusty refrigerators, and truckloads of junk with no

place else to go.

"It's an attractive nuisance," Waters told Bell. "You wouldn't want local kids climbing on the wall and falling in."

After tossing in several television tubes that never exploded or made the sound of hitting bottom, Waters said he lowered down weighted fishing line to gage the hole's depth.

Yet after sinking 15 miles of line, Waters claims it never hit bottom, making Mel's Hole's nearly twice the depth of the world's deepest known hole - the eight-mile Kola Superdeep Borehole in Russia, nicknamed the "Well to Hell."

In 2003 MTV featured the borehole on the "Urban Legends" episode "Is there a Hole to Hell?" alongside footage of Thorp-based inter-tribal medicine man Red Elk discussing

Mel's Hole. Red Elk claimed to have seen the hole as a child more than 40 years ago, and said that it was a vent for Mount Rainier.

Marie Ferland, a professor of geology at Central Washington University, said there's little scientific likelihood that such a hole exists.

Though some claim it's a lava tube left from Mount Rainier, Ferland said those are usually fairly horizontal features, not vertical ones.

"Certain types of rock dissolve easily because of their chemistry," Ferland said. "That's not the kind of rock that we have here in Ellensburg."

Ferland said that the hole could possibly exist as an abandoned mine shaft, but that it's reported depth was unlikely; that far down, Waters' fishing line would've melted from the earth's heat.

"From a scientist's standpoint, it's not worth trying to explain something unless we know it exists," Ferland said.

In 1997, the Tri-City Herald reported that Waters was not a registered tax payer, and that Ellensburg authorities were unable to find evidence of his residence. Waters, a self-proclaimed Willie Nelson-lookalike, has yet to go public.

"Consider it the most perfect myth in the state of Washington."

Charlette LeFevre

Director of Seattle Museum of Mysteries



Sylvia Armitstead/Observer

Waters, is said to have found a hole in Nevada where a seal creature was birthed from a dead sheep.

Ten years and 10,237 posts later, the moderator of the Mel's Hole Web site wrote that unless Waters came forward, the search for the hole had reached an official dead end.

"It's time to come clean 'Mel.' Once and for all," the post said.

LeFevre said that Waters and his nephew have contacted the Seattle UFO and Paranormal Group several times over the years.

"He's a smart guy. He's using a variation of a real name," LeFevre said. "When you give away your name on a national radio show you lose your privacy."

LeFevre said they've also received independent reports of the hole from locals who've never heard of Mel. When the Seattle group began researching the claims on the Web, they discovered blacked-out areas on satellite images directly over the hole's reported location - first on Terraserver, and second on Google Satellite Images, spurring stories of government and military involvement.

The group has made sev-

eral pilgrimages to Manastash Ridge in search of the hole, but hasn't found it. LeFevre said, the site itself could be an archaeological and geological find, even if the group can't verify the hole's paranormal properties.

"There were many seeds of the story that checked out," LeFevre said. "If we ran across a hoax we would no longer pursue it."

Laura Appleton, professor of sociology at Central, said the pursuit of Mel's Hole isn't that different from other religious pursuits that defy scientific logic.

"People scoff, and say that those people are weirdos," Appleton said. "Everyone says 'How can you believe that?' But others could say that turning water into wine is pretty wacky too."

Waters reappeared on Bell's radio show several times, with tales of government pay-offs, kidnapping, an Australian wombat rescue, and a second hole in Nevada. Waters claimed to have lowered a live sheep into the Nevada hole,

only for it to resurface dead with a "baby seal-like" entity with human eyes wriggling out of its internal organs. Waters said the creature healed him of esophageal cancer.

Though Waters' existence is the subject of debate, and his current whereabouts are unknown, he may return to Ellensburg one last time.

"If you had a fatal disease Mel, would you jump into the hole?" Art Bell asked.

"I would," Waters said.

"You would? Just based on the dog story?"

"It is in my will that if I meet my demise ... that I would be disposed of into the well."

## For more information

To listen to clips of Mel Waters on Art Bell's Coast to Coast AM, visit <http://melshole.org>.

To read a transcript of Waters' 1997 appearance, visit [http://www.seattleclub.org/Mel\\_Hole\\_Transcripts.html](http://www.seattleclub.org/Mel_Hole_Transcripts.html).

# Roadfever rocks towards finding a cure

by Matthew Hartmann  
Staff reporter

The 2nd annual Concert for a Cure is taking place tomorrow at the Moose Lodge in downtown Ellensburg.

Concert for a Cure is a benefit concert sponsored by the Central Washington University Chemistry Club to raise awareness and funds for cancer research.

Stephanie Bryner, graduate student biochemistry specialization, came up with the idea for Concert for a Cure last year.

"It just came about from me wanting to do a benefit concert for something that is near and dear to me," Bryner said.

Bryner said that what inspired her was her mother's four bouts with cancer, includ-

ing one in which her mother almost passed away.

According to Bryner the event is free to everyone in the community but that anyone that wishes to make a donation to the American Cancer Society should feel free to do so.

The band playing at the event will be Roadfever.

Roadfever consists of many different members including

Chemistry Lab Manager Tony Brown, guitarist.

Brown said that he had high hopes for this year's benefit.

"[Last year] turned out to be a great cause," Brown said. "We raised over \$600 for the cancer cause last year."

Roadfever is a mainly non-profit band that likes to play for fun, according to Brown.

Other faculty band mem-

bers include Anthony Diaz, bass, Mari Sorey, piano, and Tim Sorey, vocals.

"We got together and decided that we are going to play what we want to," Brown said.

The benefit is from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. Friday, Feb. 20.

Bryner said that she hopes that this year is successful and that it should be a fun time.



# sports

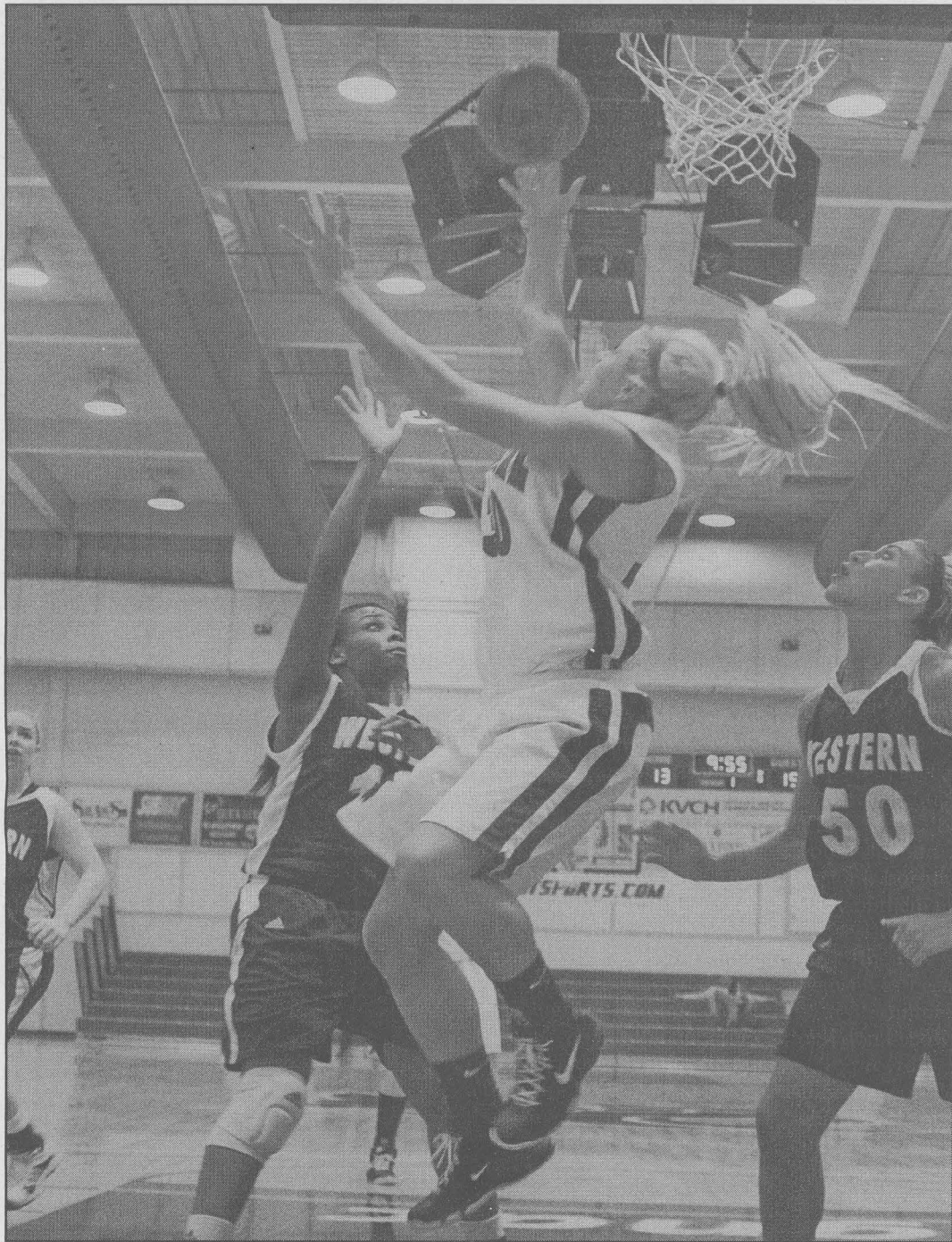


## Sports Trivia

What team owns the best regular season record for MLB?

Baseball - The 1906 Chicago Cubs (116-36) who went on to lose the 1906 World Series to the Chicago White Sox

## Girl's basketball streak stops at two



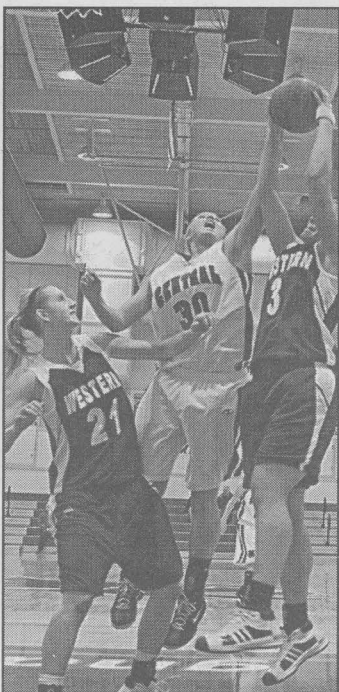
Brianan Stanley/Observer

Freshman forward Sophie Russell goes up for a reverse lay-in against the Vikings. Russell finished with just three points and Central lost to rival Western Washington Vikings 72-82.



Brianan Stanley/Observer

Senior center Hilary Tanneberg puts a move on a Western Washington defender at home on Jan. 31 at Nicholson Pavilion.



Amanda Umberger/Observer

Freshman forward Sophie Russell blocks a shot against WWU.

by Adrian Acosta  
Staff reporter

The Central Washington University women's basketball team won their second straight game against the Alaska Nanooks Thursday night.

The overtime thriller ended at 89-85. Senior Stephanie Wenke scored 29 points, tying her career high.

Wenke had no problem shooting from beyond the arc, going 6 of 8. Six of Wenke's 29 points occurred in overtime.

It looked as if Central had the game in the bag, when senior Hilary Tanneberg, hit two free throws to give Central a three-point lead with seven seconds left. However, Alaska's Sheena Brown hit a three-pointer at the buzzer to send it into overtime.

Only five of Alaska's eight players were able to score. Ronisha Edwards had 25 points and 11 rebounds.

With only seven players dressed for the game, the Wildcats had to play with a lot of intensity.

Junior forward, Shaina Afoa and senior center, Hilary Tanneberg each had a double-double. Afoa had 14 points to go along with her 11 boards, while Tanneberg had 22 points and 14 rebounds.

After coming into the half with a one-point 39-38 lead, the Wildcats shot poorly from the field, shooting a mere 37.5 percent. However, thanks to their perfect free throw shooting, and solid shooting from three-point range, they were able to hang in there.

The Wildcats also hit a sea-

son-high 13 three pointers.

With this victory, the Wildcats move to 5-15 overall, and 2-7 in Great Northwest Athletic Conference (GNAC) play.

On Valentine's Day the women's basketball team lost to Alaska Anchorage, ending the Wildcats' two-game winning streak.

The Seawolves have won 21 straight games, and are coming off a narrow 70-67 victory against Western Washington.

Central took the lead early on, when senior guard Stephanie Wenke drained the opening bucket, but Alaska Anchorage went on a 10-3 run to help give them momentum.

Senior guard Tanna Radtke, led the Wildcats with 15 points, and four rebounds. Hilary Tanneberg had one rebound shy of a double-double, with 12 points, and nine boards.

Alaska was able to play 14 players Saturday night, with 10 of them playing at least 14 minutes. This may have been a disadvantage to the Wildcat's who played with seven players, averaging almost 20 minutes each, and four players with more than 30 minutes in the game.

One of the reasons for the Wildcats 28 point loss was the terrible shooting in the second half. The Wildcats shot 19.4 percent from the field, going 6 of 31. The loss moves the Wildcats to 5-16, and 2-8 in GNAC play. They are at the bottom of the GNAC standings, with Alaska Fairbanks 0-11 in conference play.

The Wildcats will host St. Martin's Wednesday, Feb. 18 at Nicholson Pavilion.

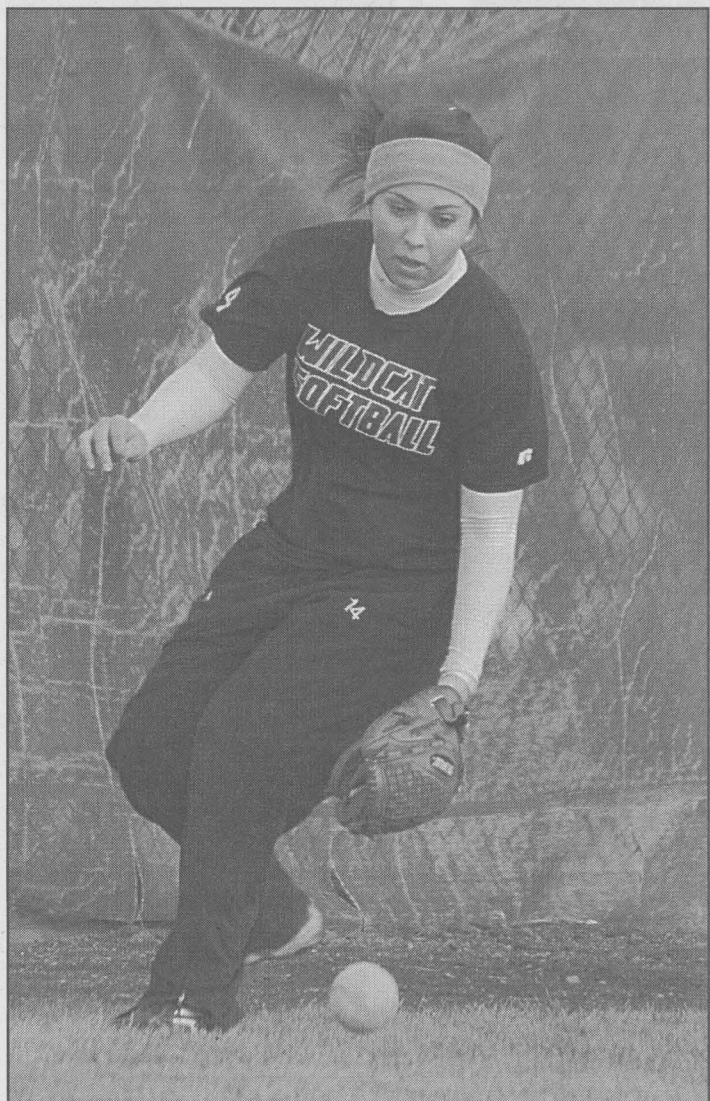


Courtesy of Michael Dinneen/UAA

Senior point guard Stephanie Wenke takes a jumper against a University of Alaska Anchorage Sea Wolves defender. CWU lost 48-76.



# Softball starts league play at home



Tetsu Takiguchi/Observer

Junior outfielder Ashley Fix practices her defense in preparation for the Feb. 21 game against St. Martins.

by Laura Mittleider  
Staff reporter

The weekend of Feb. 5, the Wildcat softball team started off their season at Chico State with a 6-3 win.

This was the third win of the season opener in the last six years.

"We played five games in California which was good," said Head Coach Gary Frederick.

On Feb. 6-8 the Wildcats participated in the Mizuno Best of the West Invitational.

With the cancellation of the Feb. 6 games due to heavy rain the lady Wildcats had a day off, before heading into the rest of the tournament.

The Wildcats were scheduled to face Davis University from West Virginia and Elkins College from California.

The Wildcats played a double header on Feb. 7 against Cal State Dominguez Hill with a 2-4 loss and Cal State Stanislaus with a 4-6 loss which gave the ladies a 1-2 record.

Senior shortstop Liz Wallace supplied the team with a double in both games and Danielle Monson had two of Central's five hits during the

first game.

Feb. 8 was the last day of the tournament, as the team had another double-header and won 4-3 in the first game against Montana State Billings and lost 0-4 against Humboldt

"We are doing really well. We struggled a little, but we took good lessons from that."

Jackie Hawkins  
Second base/Outfielder

State.

The Wildcats finish off their preseason games with a 2-3 record.

Before preseason games began, the lady Wildcats were lifting at 6 a.m. three times a week and practicing everyday from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

"We are doing really well. We struggled a little but we took good lessons from that,"

said Senior secondbase/outfielder Jackie Hawkins.

Following a season of winning an ESPY award for best moment and numerous sportsmanship awards by graduate Mallory Holtman and senior short stop Liz Wallace, Central is hoping to build off that momentum.

"We are definitely a better team," said senior catcher Holly Rossman. We just have to make sure we play to our potential and play our own game."

The team can practice rain or shine.

The girls take it outside if the weather permits and if it rains the Wildcats practice in the field house.

The team begins the regular season with a double-header on Saturday Feb. 21 against St. Martin's in a home game at noon with the weather permitting.

"It's a good test for us," said Frederick.

St. Martin's had a 1 of 4 record at the Best of West Invitational and the Wildcats have high hopes to come out on top this Saturday.

The Wildcats had a record of 12 and 18 last season and are hoping to improve from last season.

## Central Baseball team stagnant

by Satoshi Hasegawa  
Staff reporter

The baseball team of California State University Stanislaus completely shut down the Central baseball team.

The Wildcats lost the first four games of the 2009 season against the Warriors throughout last weekend with scores of: 0-6, 1-5, 5-7 and 4-11.

The Wildcats had just seven hits in the two games on Feb. 13.

The players were tired from the long bus ride to California, which affected the Central offense.

In the opener of the 2009 baseball season, Central had just three hits by senior outfielder A.J. Gosney, junior catcher Joe Schuster, and junior Michael Johnson who was pinch-hitter in the ninth inning, against Warrior starter Spencer Snodgrass.

In the second game, the Wildcats had four hits.

Out of the total hits for the day, Gosney had two hits [a total of three hits for the day] and two steals. In Central's defense, Wildcat senior starting pitcher Derek Shoemaker had some early control problems in his 2009 debut on Friday.

He walked five hitters combined in the second and third innings, before settling down.

The Wildcats had four errors, compared to one of the Warriors' defense.



Observer Archive

In the two games last Saturday, Feb. 14, the Wildcats continued to struggle and suffered two losses.

Central's offense had 17 hits total, throughout the day.

Gosney had two hits and recorded 5 hits throughout the game against California State University Stanislaus.

But the defense could not stop the Warriors' hitters.

Central sophomore starting pitcher Jake Millbauer lost four of his pitching innings and junior left-hand pitcher, Tyler Warne, threw for four innings and lost three.

In the second game, junior Kevin Walkenhauer, freshman

Thomas Burnett, and freshman Ryan Tarver threw and allowed the Warriors to score 11.

The Wildcats carried on their 10-game, nine-day trip with two games at Sonoma State, which were canceled due to rain. After the last series against Dixie State College on Feb 18 and 19, the Wildcats

are returning to Ellensburg.

They will take a week long break and get ready for the CWU invitational beginning Friday, Feb. 27 and ending March 1.

The Wildcats will host two teams, Saint Martin's and Western Oregon to come play in the invitation.



# Wildcat men split two games

by Andrew Hoggarth  
Staff reporter

For the third straight game, senior forward Brandon Foote led the men's basketball team in scoring and the Wildcats won their fourth game in a row, 86-66 over the Northwest Nazarene Crusaders on Thursday night at the Johnson Sports Center in Nampa, Idaho.

With the win, Central completed a season sweep of the Crusaders.

The win moved the Wildcats to 14-4 overall and 8-2 in the Great Northwest Athletic Conference (GNAC), while the Crusaders lost their sixth straight game and fell to 10-10 overall and 2-8 in the GNAC.

Foote scored 15 points and added four rebounds and all Central Washington players scored in the blowout victory.

Giovonne Woods, senior guard, finished with 12 points and a game-high of seven rebounds, while fellow guards Jon Clift and Colton Monti scored 10 points apiece.

Offensively, the Wildcats were lights out from the floor, shooting 56.1 percent, which was their best shooting effort against any Division II opponent this season.

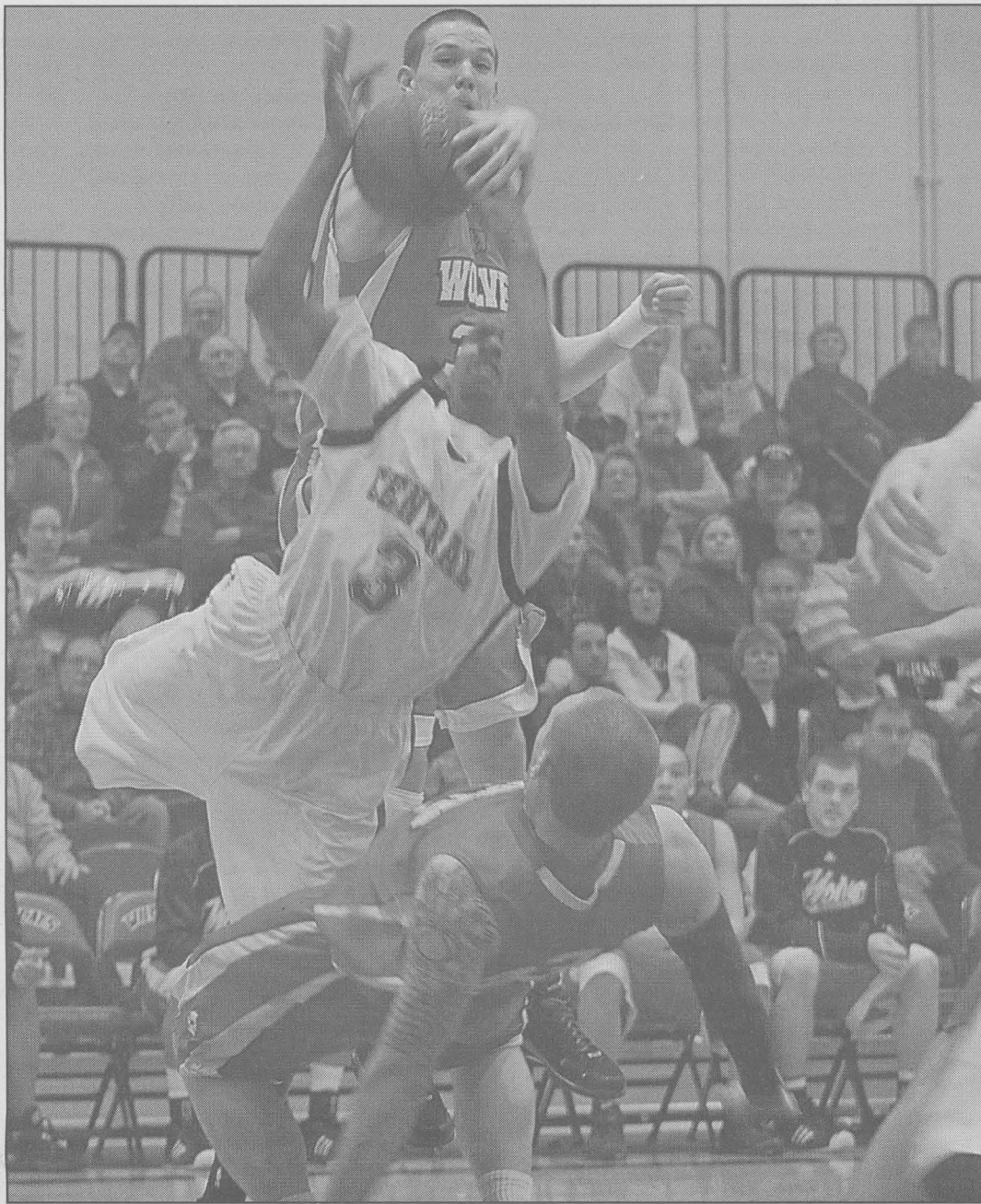
"We came out and played together as a team," Monti said. "We really found a rhythm and executed our game plan real well."

NNU came into the game boasting the league's best free throw percentage, but Central outshot them from the charity stripe as well, making 77.8 percent of their attempts compared to the Crusaders' 70.8 percent.

After a back and forth battle for the first eight minutes of the game, the Wildcats scored 10 straight points to take a 25-15 lead and they never looked back.

They held a 38-33 advantage at halftime, and their lead never slipped below five points.

Central pushed their lead to 10 points after halftime and maintained it until a late surge by the Wildcats, put the game



Dan Brown/Observer

Senior guard Giovonne Woods tries to draw a foul as he goes up for a shot against a Western Oregon Wolves defender. Woods scored 12 points and pulled down a game-high seven rebounds as the Wildcats go on the road to defeated Northwest Nazarene 86-66 for their fourth straight win in a row.

out of reach. Central turned a nine-point lead at the 6:40 mark into a 21-point cushion with 3:12 left to play thanks to a 14 to 2 run.

In addition to their advantage shooting the ball, Central also out-rebounded NNU by totaling 31 rebounds compared to the Crusaders' 23 boards.

The Wildcats also overcame the effects of a career-high 33 points from Crusader sophomore Brian Barkdoll, who accounted for half of his team's points by making 13 of 18

shots from the field.

The Wildcats, who were ranked fourth in the NCAA Division II West Region this week, continued their three-game road trip on Saturday at Saint Martin's in Lacey.

On Valentine's Day however, the Wildcat men felt no love from the Saints of St. Martin's University.

With the 89-80 loss, CWU missed an opportunity to take over first place in the GNAC standings and is now in a second-place tie with Seattle Pa-

cific at 14-5 overall and 8-3 in conference play.

The loss also drops Central a half game behind Western Washington in the conference.

The game was a tale of two halves.

Central started off the game on a 14 to 1 run and used another 9 to 0 run to push their lead to 31-13 with six minutes left in the first half.

After a seesaw battle to finish the half, the Wildcats came out with a 44-32 lead.

Undeterred, the Saints

came out in the second half and cut the lead to eight points in just five minutes, and three minutes later the lead was cut down to four.

"We could feel the game slipping away," Monti said. "It really hurt having our guys in foul trouble. That's what really changed the game."

The Wildcats were crippled by foul trouble.

Four separate Central players fouled out of the game, including the three out of the five players that started the game, leaving the reserves to try and mount a comeback in the final minutes.

With 7:14 left in the game, the Wildcats held a 66-60 advantage, but a 16 to 3 run by the Saints gave them a 76-69 lead with a little over two minutes to play.

Saint Martin's superb free throw shooting - they hit 7 of 8 in the final 45 seconds - sealed the victory.

Senior guard Colton Monti scored a career-high 24 points in the final game in his hometown and Brandon Foote added 20 points and three steals.

Woods chipped in with 16 points, but no other Wildcats had more than seven points.

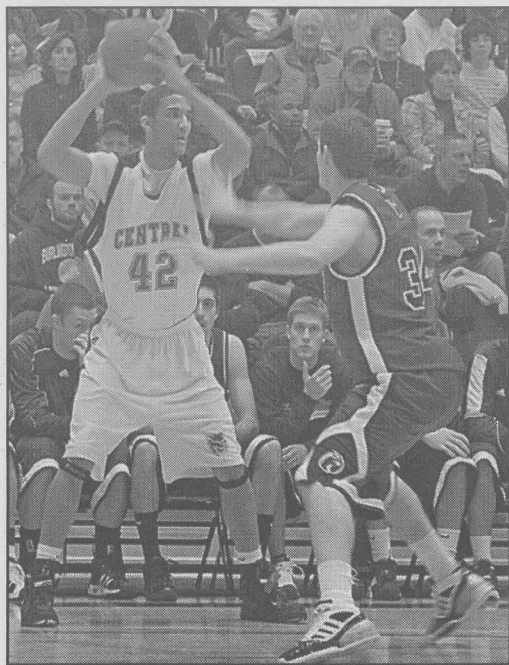
Senior guard Jake Linton led the Saints with 34 points making this the second straight game that the Wildcats allowed an opposing player to score more than 30 points.

Senior center Bill Richardson added 22 points for the Saints and three other players finished with seven points.

The Wildcats finish their three-game road trip this weekend, traveling to Monmouth to take on Western Oregon on Thursday, Feb. 19.

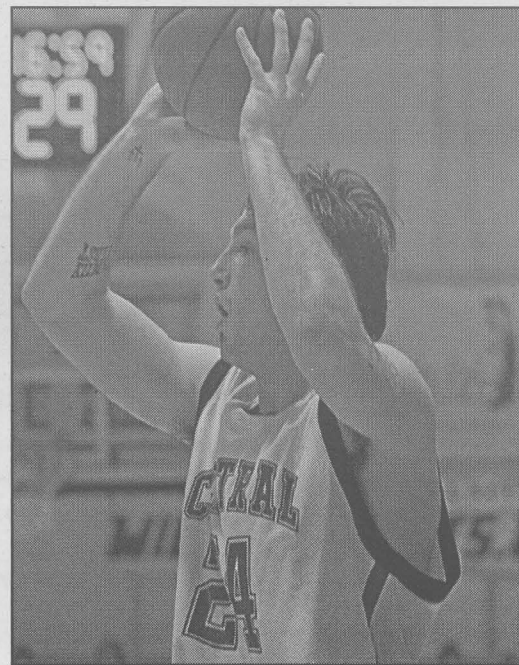
They are then at home for three games, Feb. 26 against Alaska Anchorage, Feb. 28 against Alaska, and finally March 5, against Montana State Billings.

After playing three games at home, the Wildcats have just one game left, at rival Western Washington on March 7- the last game before the NCAA Division II West Regional begins on March 13.



Photos by Dan Brown/Observer

Left: Sophomore center Chris Sprinker looks to make a pass over a Seattle Pacific defender. Top: Junior guard Jon Clift drives past defenders during a fast break. Right: Senior guard Brandon Foote is looking for an open teammate. The Wildcats' next home game is 7:30 p.m. on Feb. 26 at Nicholson Pavilion against Alaska Anchorage.





# Track and field athletes gain awards

by James Anderson  
Asst. sports editor

Every week the Great Northwest Athletic Conference (GNAC) selects the best performing athletes of that week and awards them with the GNAC Athlete of the Week Award.

Since the beginning of the new year, three students from the Central Washington University track and field team have won the prestigious award.

With the indoor track and field conference championships right around the corner, this alludes to the Central track and field teams' high chances of coming away with a victory.

Senior Krissy Tandle, junior Tyler Fischer and most recently freshman Bryan Mack have all won the GNAC Athlete of the Week Award in the past two months.

Tandle, who won the award on the weekend of Jan. 23, has already qualified an automatic mark for the national conference championships in the shot-put.

Winning an automatic mark means she has thrown so well in the regular season, she has automatically reserved her spot in the national conference indoor championships which are the weekend of March 13 in Houston, Texas.

She is currently the national leader in the shot-put in her division and was a previous All-American in outdoor shot-put in 2007.

"In her last year of school, [Tandle] is doing exactly what she has been waiting for, a chance to be right in the forefront of things," said Kevin Adkisson, head coach of the men and women's track and field teams. "She has a chance to be a national champion."

Fischer and Tandle won the GNAC Athlete of the Week Award during

the same weekend.

Fischer has been hard at work improving his shot-put to secure a spot in the nationals.

Fischer is currently a conference leader in the weight throw and has earned

a provisional mark for the national championship.

A provisional mark doesn't guarantee an athlete's spot in the championship but puts them in the running for one of the highly prestigious entries.

Fischer was also an All-American

last year for his great performances in the discus.

The most recent winner of the GNAC award is Mack, for his startling performances in the 60 meter indoor sprint and the triple jump.

The national provisional mark for

the 60 meter dash is 6.86 seconds, Mack ran a 6.96, which is phenomenal considering his status as a freshman and this being his first time on the track and field team.

Mack won the GNAC Athlete of the Week Award the weekend of Feb. 6.

"[Being in the national championship] is certainly something that could happen," said Coach Adkisson. "He's bound to hit it at some point."

The road is long and hard for athletes to achieve greatness, but awards such as the GNAC Athlete of the Week Award keep athletes going with something to work towards during each season.

"It's great to see their hard work pay off. You know what they're capable of when they practice, so it's really satisfying when these marks come around," Coach Adkisson said.

"We believe we have got some outstanding athletes."

The next track and field event include the GNAC Indoor Track & Field Championships in Nampa, Idaho on the weekend of Feb. 20.

"We believe we have got some outstanding athletes."

Kevin Adkisson  
Head Coach

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For more information, contact Nathan Sanden at 963.7172 or [sandenn@cwu.edu](mailto:sandenn@cwu.edu).

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# Men's lacrosse shoots for the goal

by Drew Ritchie  
Staff reporter

The 20th-ranked men's lacrosse club is ready to start this season after practicing three to four days a week and going to meetings, or "chalk talks", once a week to review plays.

Coming off the best season in school history having made the playoffs for the first time ever, expectations are high as they look to go deeper into the playoffs.

"We are 20th in the nation right now," said Earl Gerlach, the club vice president and junior goaltender. "If we are going to make a run, it's going to be this year."

Kellen Gallacher, club president and senior defender, said, "We are predicted to finish second in the league, but I think we will win the league."

Last season, Central posted a 7-2 record. However, they fell short in the playoffs, falling in the first round to Whitman College in Walla Walla in overtime.

The team is led by fifth year senior Kevin Norris, an all-conference attacker.

Last year he was tied for the team leader with 27 goals, and led the team with 40 points while dishing out 13 assists.

He averaged 3.38 goals per game, 1.63 assists per game and five points per game.

The new season brings a new coach, Chris Johnson, along with a new mentality.

Their first game is at 3 p.m. on Saturday Feb. 21 against Willamette at Whitman (Walla Walla).

Their first home game will be an exhibition game at 1 p.m. against Seattle University on Saturday March 14.

The club plays in the Pacific Northwest Collegiate Lacrosse League (PN-CLL). In this league, they play teams from a variety of places, such as Montana, British Columbia, Oregon, Washington and Idaho.

Since Central is a Division II school, they play schools like Pacific Lutheran, Western Oregon and Western Washington.

As far as fundraisers are concerned, they are not doing any at the moment. The team is just using funds from the team dues.

In the fall they host the Rodeo Town Lacrosse Tournament which brings in a couple thousand dollars.

When the weather gets better, they may also be doing some car washes.

If anyone is interested in playing lacrosse, they can contact the president, Gallacher, at GallacherK@cwu.edu.

## Retractions

The water polo president's name is Darrell Kangiser. Their practice schedule is Tuesday and Thursday at 8 p.m. to 10 p.m., at the Central pool. They are part of the National Collegiate Aquatic Association (NCAA). Teams who are coming to play at the tournament are from the Pacific North West College league.



Brianan Stanley /Observer

The Central Washington University lacrosse club players practice in the field house to get ready for their next tournament. The lacrosse team is coming off their best season ever, where they made it to the playoffs.

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Bruce Porter  
Director, Business Services & Contracts



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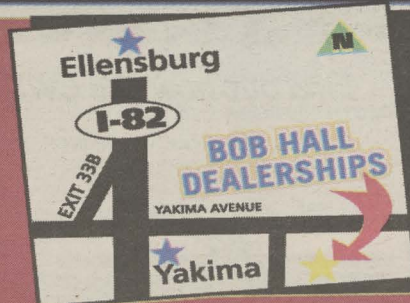
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